

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of controlling a capacitive mat, the method comprising:  
energizing first and second nodes of the capacitive mat with opposite polarity;  
loading first media onto the capacitive mat;  
positioning the first media in a print zone;  
forming an image on the first media;  
reversing the polarity of the first and second nodes.
2. The method of controlling a capacitive mat according to claim 1, further comprising removing the media from the print zone before the reversing the polarity of the first and second nodes.
3. The method of controlling a capacitive mat according to claim 1, further comprising returning the first media to the print zone after the reversing the polarity of the first and second nodes.
4. The method of controlling a capacitive mat according to claim 1, further comprising:  
removing the first media from the capacitive mat;  
loading second media onto the capacitive mat after the reversing of the polarity of the first and second nodes.
5. The method of controlling a capacitive mat according to claim 4, wherein the loading of the second media onto the capacitive mat occurs within five (5) seconds of the reversing the polarity of the first and second nodes.

6. The method of controlling a capacitive mat according to claim 1, further comprising maintaining the polarities of the first and second nodes while the first media is disposed within the print zone.

7. A media handling apparatus, comprising:

a platen having first and second conductors arranged such that individual first conductors are separated by at least one individual second conductor, the first and second conductors having a non-conductive layer disposed over the first and second conductors;

a polarity control device configured to energize the first and second conductors with opposite polarity and to reverse the polarity of the first and second conductors according to an input signal.

8. The media handling apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising a controller configured to provide the input signal to the polarity control device upon detection that sheet of print medium has substantially exited a print zone.

9. The media handling apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the platen comprises a drum for supporting a print medium in an arced shape.

10. The media handling apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising a controller configured to provide the input signal to the polarity control device after detection that a sheet of print media has been substantially removed from the platen.

11. An image forming device, comprising:
  - a print engine;
  - a platen disposed adjacent the print engine for supporting media in a print zone during image formation, the platen having first and second electrodes covered by a dielectric material;
  - circuitry configured to charge the first and second electrodes with opposite polarity and to reverse the polarity of the first and second electrodes.
12. The image forming device of claim 11, further comprising a controller for controlling the print engine and the circuitry such that the circuitry reverses the polarity of the first and second electrodes after the media is removed from the platen.
13. The image forming device of claim 11, further comprising a controller for controlling the print engine and the circuitry such that the circuitry reverses the polarity of the first and second electrodes after the media is removed from the print zone.
14. The image forming apparatus of claim 11, further comprising:
  - an output tray;
  - a controller for controlling the print engine and the circuitry such that the circuitry reverses the polarity of the first and second electrodes after the media is deposited in the output tray.
15. The image forming device of claim 11, further comprising a controller for controlling the print engine and the circuitry such that the circuitry reverses the polarity of the first and second electrodes after the print engine has at least partially formed an image on the media.

16. The image forming device of claim 11, further comprising a controller for controlling the print engine and the circuitry such that the circuitry reverses the polarity of the first and second electrodes no more than five (5) seconds before loading media on the platen.
17. The image forming device of claim 11, wherein the print engine is an inkjet print engine.
18. The image forming device of claim 11, wherein the platen further comprises a rotating drum.
19. A device comprising:
  - a print engine for forming an image on media positioned in a print zone;
  - means for energizing first and second nodes of the capacitive mat with opposite polarity and reversing the polarity of the first and second nodes after removal of the media from the print zone.
20. A method for controlling a capacitive mat, the method comprising:
  - energizing first and second nodes of the capacitive mat with opposite polarity;
  - forming an image on the media positioned in a print zone;
  - reversing the polarity of the first and second nodes.
21. The method of claim 20, further comprising removing the media from the capacitive mat before the reversing the polarity of the first and second nodes.

22. The method of claim 20, further comprising returning the media to the print zone after the reversing the polarity of the first and second nodes.

23. The method of claim 20, further comprising:

removing the media from the capacitive mat;

loading another piece of media onto the capacitive mat after the reversing of the polarity of the first and second nodes.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the loading of the another piece of media onto the capacitive mat occurs within five (5) seconds of the reversing the polarity of the first and second nodes.

25. The method of claim 20, wherein the reversing occurs after removal of the media from the print zone.

26. A method for controlling a capacitive mat, the method comprising:
- energizing first and second nodes of the capacitive mat with opposite polarity;
  - loading first media onto the capacitive mat;
  - positioning the first media in a print zone;
  - forming a first image on the first media;
  - advancing the first media from the print zone;
  - reversing the polarity of the first and second nodes;
  - removing the first media from the capacitive mat before the reversing the polarity of the first and second nodes;
  - loading second media onto the capacitive mat after the reversing of the polarity of the first and second nodes within five (5) seconds of the reversing the polarity of the first and second nodes.